

Plunket (J.D.)

VITAL STATISTICS IN TENNESSEE.

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A REPORT

BY

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MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH AND ITS COM-
MITTEE ON VITAL STATISTICS.

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presented by the author



VITAL STATISTICS.

To repeat and here reproduce the argument showing the value and essential importance of vital statistics in the proper administration of all enlightened government, either in its social, economic or hygienic aspects would, it is believed, be wholly a work of supererogation.

Four years ago your committee, in their last report upon vital statistics,* presented briefly, but as far as it related to sanitary science it was thought sufficiently, the argument upon the subject, and therefore at this time will add nothing more in that way, but assume that the intelligent everywhere concede without hesitation the far-reaching importance of vital statistics, and their great value when accurately collected and preserved and properly interpreted. As an illustration of the serious embarrassment and cruel injustice which often arises from their absence, the following letter from a gentleman living in West Tennessee, and which we clip from the *Memphis Appeal*, Feb. 27, 1883, gives specific details of actual facts as they occurred under his own immediate vision and personal experience :

“REASONS WHY THE LEGISLATURE OUGHT NOT TO REPEAL THE VITAL STATISTICS LAW.

“The enclosed letter was sent to a member of the Legislature which passed the vital statistics law it is now proposed to repeal. The reasons I therein advanced for it are as pertinent now as then, and I therefore ask you to lay it before your readers in the hope that it may receive the attention of the members from Shelby county and induce them to see how essential the vital statistics law is, at least to our adopted citizens.

F. W. BUTTINGHAUS.”

“THE LETTER REFERRED TO.

“I take the liberty to propose to you that, to prevent in future many difficulties and embarrassments to our adopted citizens and their heirs in

* First Report State Board of Health, page 167.

regard to inheritance from the old world, a law be passed that the county clerk, or some other person duly authorized by law, keep the following authoritative register, namely :

1. Of all marriages in the respective county, with (a) full names, (b) place of birth, (c) the names of the parents of the contracting parties, (d) the officer or parson who performed the marriage, the date thereof, etc.

2. All births of children, their names, names of father and mother, date and place.

3. All demises, date, name, birthplace, age, disease, name of attending physician or name of coroner, undertaker, date, and place of interment, etc. This law may be made obligatory to all citizens, and any failure thereof be considered a misdemeanor and punished by a fine, etc. The clerk or other lawful person should be entitled for each registration 25 cents, to be paid by the interested parties.

Such a law exists, as you know, in Europe, and that the enactment of such or a similar one here is doubtless very expedient, and in many instances very profitable to our citizens, and the failure of the existence of the same very damaging to some of our citizens. Allow me to mention a few cases which have come under my observation.

A widow lady in South Memphis received notice from Germany that the father of her late husband had died, and her and her children's share of inheritance was at their disposal if she would send the necessary documents of marriage, legitimacy of her children, etc. Now, her marriage-license was lost; she was married some twenty years ago in New Orleans by a justice of the peace, the name of whom she did not remember; neither did she know in what district she had been married, as she had left Louisiana shortly after said marriage. I have written several times to the authorities of Louisiana, but the record could not be found. Although we proved by affidavits of several persons that she and her deceased husband had lived here in Memphis for many years, and always as man and wife; that the man declared her to be his lawful wife, and that the children were his. But all in vain. The German authorities wanted legal documents, not only of the marriage, but also of the legitimacy of the children, which we could not produce, as there does not exist such a record. And thus the matter stands to-day, and neither the widow nor her children can obtain the money, which amounts to several thousand dollars.

Another case is that with Mrs. Suechten, whom you know. Her father and mother are both dead. She is entitled to her parents' heritage, but she has to produce the documents of legitimacy. The physician and midwife who attended her mother at her birth are both dead, but fortunately I found a few old citizens who had known her since she was a baby, and especially an old lady who was present at her birth. (I will here state for Col. Patterson, that the matter will come to a close now, as I have been informed, after nine or ten years trouble and accruing heavy expenses.)

There are many other cases in my charge which cause me great trouble and the people heavy expenses. To prevent this, and also for the reason that the money should come into our country without fail or delay, I think it highly expedient that such a law as above indicated should be enacted, as it is neither expensive to the country nor the people, nor is it troublesome or oppressive to any fair-minded person.

F. W. BUTTINGHAUS."

Many similar instances could be given, and as we become more populous as a State they will become necessarily more numerous, and the ends of good government, consequently more hopelessly involved, without some such law, and since a beginning must be made in this direction, the query naturally arises, why not make it now?

Again, aside from the vexatious delays and great injustice often imposed upon the individual, in not being able to supply him or her, as the case might be, with data which could be obtained from a carefully kept register of vital statistics alone, communities, from the same want of exact information, are also made to suffer through misrepresentation, thereby driving away immigration and capital, and retarding development and progress. Recently a case of this kind has come to light involving the reputation of half a dozen of the wealthiest counties in Tennessee, the greater number of which possess, in an eminent degree, the essential conditions of health, such as an elevated, rolling surface, thus securing the best of natural drainage, an abundant supply of the most wholesome water both for man and beast, a soil rich in its yield of the greatest variety of crops; and inhabited by a hardy, long-lived, intelligent and thrifty people.

At a meeting of the State Board of Health, held in Nashville on April 1 and 2, 1884, we find in the written report of the Secretary, made upon that occasion, the following statement:

"Judge Pitkin C. Wright, agent for Tennessee of the Hartford Life and Annuity Insurance Company, has referred to this office a letter from his company instructing him not to issue policies in the counties of Bedford, Gibson, Henry, Robertson, Rutherford, and Sumner. The question is

submitted to the Board whether those counties show an unusually heavy death rate. If not, such instructions are detrimental to the reputation of said counties."

The following are the letters referred to, with an extract from the minutes of the Board of that date:

"OFFICE OF TENNESSEE AGENCY FOR THE HARTFORD LIFE
AND ANNUITY INS. CO., NASHVILLE, TENN., Mar. 29, 1884.

"*C. C. Fite, M.D., Secretary State Board of Health:*

DEAR DOCTOR—The enclosed letter from the officer mentioned of the above company, giving some reasons for their refusal to accept risks from certain counties, is evidently based on erroneous or mistaken information. Will you do me the great favor to bring the matter therein contained to the attention of the State Board, as it is a matter affecting the vital statistics of the State, and I would like their opinions thereon.

Yours truly,

PITKIN C. WRIGHT, *Agent.*"

"OFFICE HARTFORD LIFE AND ANNUITY INSURANCE CO.,
HARTFORD, CONN., March 1, 1884.

"*Pitkin C. Wright, Esq., Nashville, Tenn.:*

DEAR SIR—Your communications upon the subject of prohibited counties in Tennessee are before me for the purpose of making explanation of the cause of our action.

That you may know that our action is not without due warrant in the premises, we have to say that we have in hand the combined experience of American Companies in your State, and the facts show as follows:

The six counties of Bedford, Gibson, Henry, Robertson, Rutherford, and Sumner, show among insured lives a death loss of \$158,300, while the tabular mortality, corresponding to the amount at risks, shows that the loss should have been only \$68,105. Hence, showing more than double the loss that there should have been—in fact, \$136,212 more than the policy-holders in that group of counties paid or contributed towards mortality. Now, look at the experience in the three counties of Shelby, Fayette, and Obion, the mortality of which is to be attributed, in a great degree, to the specially excessive mortality of the Memphis district. These three counties, in fact, show a trifle better than the group of six before mentioned, viz.: \$1,521,016 actual mortality to \$701,683 tabular mortality, while the balance of the State shows only \$582,805 actual mortality to \$613,859 tabular mortality, showing, conclusively, that if you leave out the nine counties named, the experience was good; in fact, did not quite equal the tabular mortality.

We have laid these facts before you—and they are actual facts gathered together from actual experience alone—to show that we are not acting through the influence of any wild guess-work in prohibiting work in those counties.

You are an intelligent, reflecting man, and if you sat here called upon

to exercise a proper control in the selection of risks, you would feel, as we do, forced to govern the action by the coincidence in hand. It does not seem to us that the experience can be called accidental, and be treated as unlikely to recur, for it exhibits figures of sufficient size to warrant the conclusion that it is the rule and not at all accidental. We can not afford to disregard any danger signal that stares us so vividly in the face.

Yours truly,

STEPHEN BALL, *Sec'y.*"

"The above letters were upon motion referred to the 'Committee on Vital Statistics,' and upon which they submitted the following report:

"To the President and Members of the State Board of Health:

GENTLEMEN—After considering the communication of the Hartford Life and Annuity Insurance Company, bearing date of March 1, 1883, and addressed to Pitkin C. Wright, Esq., Nashville, Tenn., referred to your committee, they respectfully report that the action of said company in prohibiting the taking of risks in the counties of Bedford, Gibson, Henry, Robertson, Rutherford and Sumner is, to say the least, most extraordinary, inasmuch as the pretext for such action is stated to be the heavy mortality among the inhabitants of said counties. Now, as a matter of fact, the death rate of these counties is well known to be that of the average of any of the Middle States, while that of a large majority of the counties named is about the same, if not below the death rate of many of the so-called salubrious districts of America. The explanation, then, of the remarkable figures presented by this company in their communication, must be sought for rather in their methods of business—in the possible reckless taking of risks which may have been pursued by them in the counties named.

Again, your committee would submit for your consideration the accompanying letters from the State Manager of the Ætna Life Insurance Company, and from the local agents of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, of New York, both of which companies rank at least as the peer of the Hartford Life and Annuity Insurance Company, and are, your committee believe, equally as scrutinizing of the applicant and his environments as has become the Hartford company in taking risks, and which communications show that "the combined experience of American companies in your State" has not caused them to prohibit taking risks in either Bedford, Gibson, Henry, Robertson, Rutherford or Sumner counties.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. D. PLUNKET,

Chairman of Committee on Vital Statistics.

April 2, 1884."

"NASHVILLE, TENN., April 2, 1884.

"*Dr. J. D. Plunket, Chairman:*

DEAR SIR—In reply to your inquiry as to whether the Mutual Life Insurance Company does business in the counties of Bedford, Gibson, Henry, Robertson, Rutherford and Sumner, of this State, we say that this company does insure lives in every county in the State, but in that portion west of the Tennessee river an additional charge is made during the epidemic season.

Very respectfully,

GALE, THOMAS & SHARPE, *Agents.*"

"NASHVILLE, TENN., April 2, 1884.

"*J. D. Plunket, M.D., Chairman:*

MY DEAR SIR—In answer to your inquiry of this date, as to whether or not the Ætna Life Insurance Company does business in the counties of Bedford, Gibson, Henry, Robertson, Rutherford and Sumner, of this State, would say it does, and in all other counties of the State, except counties bordering on the Mississippi river, and in such counties at extra rate, of about one-fourth increase of rate.

Yours respectfully,

W. D. TALBOT, *Manager.*"

"The report of committee was received and adopted."

It was to prevent similar and further injustice to the individual by inaugurating a system of registration for the State at large, through which he or she could, without unnecessary delay or annoyance, be for the future supplied with the legal information often required for the just distribution of property, to be able, with incontrovertible facts, to meet all efforts to decry our commonwealth by misrepresentation as regards its healthfulness in part or in whole, as indicated in its death rate, and more, that your committee formulated with much care four years ago a bill to provide for the registration of births, deaths and marriages in Tennessee. In suggesting and presenting this proposed bill, the committee prefaced it with the following language:

"To the end, therefore, of aiding in the intelligent accomplishment of such an object, and facilitating the enactment of a law so desirable, the following outline of a law has been carefully worked out, and is respectfully submitted, as embracing the minimum of detail, which any system of registration to be valuable must possess, and,

while this outline will at a glance appear, as it is, defective, and in some particulars even crude, yet, as an educational means—as a first step in this direction by our State, it is believed it will prove the part of wisdom to adopt it, rather than attempt too great detail, or strive after too great perfection at the beginning, for such a course, as is shown in the experience of other States and countries, has invariably been followed by most discouraging results, if not an entire failure. The people must be gradually brought to an appreciation of this subject, and must be encouraged to the formation of the habit of reporting for registration, and permanent preservation among the municipal, county and State archives, the three most important events of human life, viz.: birth, marriage and death, and as this object is realized, the law from time to time may be perfected by amendment in such particulars as experience may dictate as either necessary or desirable, and in addition, the execution of the law, which in many localities has been found exceedingly difficult, will thereby be rendered easy and effectual, a feature of the first importance, as such registration will in consequence be of greatly increased value as it is made to approximate completeness.”*

“REGISTRATION LAW SUGGESTED.

“*AN ACT to provide for the registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths in Tennessee.*

“SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee,* That every justice of the peace, minister of the gospel, and all other legally authorized persons solemnizing marriage in this State, shall make a record of each marriage so solemnized by him, together with all the facts relating to the same, as required by the fifth section of this act; and such justice, minister of the gospel, or other person, shall, at the time such marriage is solemnized, deliver on demand to either of the parties so joined in marriage as aforesaid, a certificate of such marriage, containing all the facts in relation thereto required by said fifth section of this act; and shall, within (30) thirty days thereafter, deliver to the clerk of the County Court of that county in which such marriage took place, a certified copy of such record.

“SEC. 2. That every physician, surgeon, or midwife, who may be in professional attendance at any birth or death in this State, or in the absence of any or all of the aforesaid parties, the head or senior member of said household wherein said birth or death occurred, shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, file a written statement, duly certified to, of the fact, together with such other facts pertain-

*First report of the State Board of Health, page 230.

ing thereto as are required in section five of this act, with the senior (by age) justice of the peace of the civil district in which said birth or death occurred.

"SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the aforesaid justice of the peace in each civil district in the State, on receiving the returns of such births or deaths, to record the same in a book, to be furnished by the county, properly ruled, in the order in which they are received by said justice, and once within each and every thirty days make and deliver to the County Court clerk of the county in which such civil district is located, a certified copy of such record.

"SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of every coroner in this State to keep in a well-bound book a record of every inquest held in his district, and within thirty days after the holding of such inquest he shall deliver to the County Court clerk of the county wherein said coroner has jurisdiction, a certified copy of such record, giving all the facts as required in section five of the act for other deaths.

"SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the County Court clerks of the several counties in this State, on receiving the returns of such births, marriages and deaths, to record the same at length in separate books (well-bound), to be provided for that purpose by the county, with proper indexes thereto. The births, marriages and deaths shall be numbered and recorded in the order in which they are received by the said clerk, and the record of marriages shall be indexed, using both the name of the bridegroom and bride. The record of births shall state in separate columns the date of the birth, the name of the child (if it has any), the sex and color of the child, the place of birth, the christian and surname of both parents, the residence and nativity, and kinship, if any, of the parents, the occupation of the father, and the date when the record was made; *Provided*, that in case the child had no christian name, such name shall be obtained and reported by the head of the household wherein each birth occurred, within thirty days after his or her attention has been called to the fact by the senior (by age) justice of the peace, who shall do so at once upon discovering the omission, and such christian name shall be distinctly designated in such report as the christian name belonging to a child previously reported, and shall be properly entered by said justice in the blank left for such christian name in his book of record. The record of marriages shall state in separate columns the date and place of marriage, the christian and surname of the bridegroom and bride, if a widow, the color, age and place of birth of each, the residence of each at the time of marriage, the occupation of the bridegroom, and the name and official station of the person by or before whom they were married, the name and residence of at least two witnesses present at such marriage, and the

date when such record was made. The record of death shall state, in separate columns, the date of the death, the christian and surname of the deceased, the sex and color, whether married or single, the age in years, months and days, the place of death, the disease or apparent cause of the death, the nativity of the deceased, and the occupation, if any, and the names and residence of the parents, and their relationship, if any, and the date when such record was made. The clerk of the County Court of the several counties shall annually, on or before the first day of April, make and transmit to the Secretary of State a certified copy of the records in his office of all the births, marriages and deaths reported in their respective counties for the year ending December 31st last preceding, and each County Court clerk shall receive for the record of each birth, marriage and death in his office three cents, and three cents for each birth, marriage and death returned by him to the Secretary of State, to be paid by the county upon the presentation of a certificate from the Secretary of State that the duties herein imposed upon said County Court clerk have been performed, and shall be compensation in full for all the services required by this act to be performed by him.

" SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to receive the returns made in pursuance of the fifth section of this act, and he shall cause the same for each year to be bound together in one or more volumes, at the expense of the State, and make indexes thereto, and with the assistance of the Secretary of the State Board of Health, who is hereby constituted *ex officio* 'the Superintendent of Vital Statistics,' shall prepare such tabular statements, results, and deductions therefrom as will render them of practical utility, and make reports thereof annually to the Governor of the State, which report may be ordered published and distributed in such manner as the Legislature may from time to time direct.

" SEC. 7. Nothing contained in this act shall be so construed as interfering with the manner adopted by any municipality in this State for collecting such vital statistics; and it is hereby made the duty of such municipal authorities to cause to be made once in every thirty days a transcript of such municipal record, which, after being duly certified to, they shall cause the same to be delivered to the clerk of the County Court in which county said municipality is located.

" SEC. 8. In case of the refusal or neglect by any of the officers or individual mentioned in this act to perform any of the duties hereinbefore required of them, or either of them, to be done and performed by any of the provisions herein contained, such officer or person shall be guilty of misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall

be fined not less than five dollars nor more than fifty dollars, and the prosecuting attorney in each county or judicial district is hereby required to prosecute in the name of the people of the State of Tennessee all persons in his county or judicial district who shall be guilty of a violation of this act.

"SEC. 9. *Be it further enacted*, That all acts or parts of acts coming in conflict with this act, are hereby repealed, and that this act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

A copy of this bill was introduced, by request, in the Senate of 1881, by Hon. Samuel Watson, Senator from Davidson county, who with intelligent zeal aided greatly in effecting its passage in due time through the Senate. On March 30, 1881, having passed the House of Representatives, it received the signatures of the Speakers of both houses, and was transmitted to his Excellency Governor Alvin Hawkins for approval. Upon the theory that because the Act as passed took "effect from and after its passage," etc., it might, because of the shortness of notice, work a hardship upon some one, the Governor at once expressed his purpose of vetoing the bill. Thus the matter stood in the balance of uncertainty for several days, and until the meeting of the State Medical Society, which occurred in Nashville on April 5, 1881. The following is an extract from the published minutes of the Society :

"The following resolutions were offered by Dr. Plunket and adopted:

"*Whereas*, This association in 1848, 1854, 1860, and 1868, through able committees, memorialized without success the Legislature upon the importance of enacting a law for the registration of births, marriages and deaths in the State; and,

"*Whereas*, The State Board of Health has finally succeeded in inducing the present Legislature to pass a most excellent bill upon this subject, which we learn the Governor is hesitating about approving because of a technical objection which, in our opinion, is practically of but little effect; therefore, be it

"*Resolved*, That the defeat of a measure of such paramount importance would, in the course of current events, be but little less than a public calamity.

"*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to wait upon His Excellency at once and urge upon him the expediency of allowing the bill to become a law.

"The following committee was appointed under this resolution : Drs. W. P. Jones, D. D. Saunders, W. R. Sevier, Thomas Menees, and J. F. Grant."

"The committee, after interviewing the Governor, reported the following preamble and resolution, which, after adoption, the committee again waited upon His Excellency and notified him of the Society's action, whereupon the Governor consented to sign the bill :

"*Whereas*, The Governor feels a delicacy in signing the bill providing for the "registration of births, marriages and deaths," because it inflicts penalties for neglect of duty "*from and after its passage*," and many are ignorant of the passage of said bill ; therefore,

"*Resolved*, That the State Medical Society recommend that the features of the bill inflicting penalties shall not be enforced for the period of forty days from and after its passage.

"W. P. JONES,	} Committee.
"J. F. GRANT,	
"D. D. SAUNDERS,	
"THOS. MENEES."	

Thus upon a recommendation by the State Medical Society that a definite time be allowed to elapse before the Act should practically go into operation, at least so far as the feature of imposing fines for non-compliance with its requirements was concerned, the Governor approved the same, and the bill, as originally drawn by your committee, became a law on April 5, 1881.

At once, with commendable zeal, so far as your committee had opportunity for judging, the county authorities, especially in the more populous counties, began the work of providing the necessary record books, stationery, etc., that the registration might be begun with the least delay and confusion possible. Would that as much might be said regarding all the county authorities in the State. The State Board of Health had immediately printed ten thousand copies of the law, and had it mailed to every magistrate, minister of the gospel, coroner, physician, and, so far as their names could be obtained, the midwives throughout

the State. After a time the report began to be received that certain parties claimed, because the law required at their hands certain labor without providing compensation therefor, it was unconstitutional, and, consequently, any disregard for its provisions could not be legally enforced. The equity of this as an abstract proposition, we dare say, will be gainsaid by no one; but as the insignificance of the duty asked, and as it would have fallen in the execution of the law upon each magistrate or other party concerned, was so small, even trifling in the great majority of instances, in drawing the bill, the committee felt encouraged to hope that each one would contribute cheerfully that much without pay, in view of the great value of the end to be obtained.

From this cause, and, so far as we are informed, from this cause alone, there developed in a few localities this opposition, which became more or less pronounced as circumstances favored, and upon the convening of the Legislature of 1883, the following bill was introduced :

"A BILL to be entitled an act to repeal an act entitled ' An Act to provide for the registration of births, marriages and deaths in Tennessee.'

"SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee*, That an act passed March 30, 1881, approved April 5, 1881, acts of 1881, chapter 112, entitled An Act to provide for the registration of births, marriages and deaths in Tennessee, be and the same is hereby repealed.

"SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That this act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it."

This bill was enacted into a law upon March 28, 1883, in singular disregard and indifference to the protests of an enlightened public sentiment, which was reflected through the columns of a progressive and vigilant press, as, at a glance will be seen from the following extracts, clipped from the dailies of Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga, and other points :

[Nashville Banner, February 24, 1883.]

"Two years ago, 'An Act to provide for the registration of births, marriages and deaths in Tennessee' was placed upon the statute books. The value and far-reaching importance of such a law was hailed by the more enlightened of our citizens as a step of unquestioned progress, as by such a registry often is the just and legal distribution of property facilitated, and the influence of civilization, occupation, locality, and other physical and social agencies operating upon our people brought out in a most clear and profitable manner. Such registration would teach us every day that which every day should be brought to our knowledge, that we may and do in a large measure weave the web of our own life: that death being for the most part the result of influences by which we are surrounded, we have it greatly in our power to make those influences conducive to life or to our destruction. Our habits either make or mar us. Our eating, our drinking, our clothing, our personal cleanliness, our schoolrooms, our church buildings, and even our legislative halls, the air and situation of our homes, our houses in their construction, material, arrangement for heating, lighting and ventilation, their very newness; our occupation, our education, etc., all alike have an influence for good or for evil, and all alike come strictly within the province, within the legitimate consideration of the vital statistician.

"It is by records such as are the result of this character of registration that we become informed how best to live, as well physically as mentally, and even morally, for it is now conceded by all civilized nations that there is an intimate relationship between health and morality, so there is just the same relationship between health and crime. Since, therefore, the end of government is the good of mankind, such laws have been given great prominence in the civil codes of all enlightened nations, and every facility has been by them provided by which such registration can be made most full and accurate.

"Hence the effort being made at this time to erase from our statute books this law must necessarily arise from a superficial view of either its value or scope, and as such a step would be no less in discord with the spirit of the hour than it must in its sequence prove but little short of a public calamity, we trust that the House will look well to this matter, and be slow, very slow, in adopting such a programme."

[Memphis Appeal, February 28, 1883.]

The *Appeal* very heartily endorses what the *Nashville Banner* says as to the necessity for the Vital Statistics Act which it is proposed to repeal. Put its enforcement in the hands of the coroner

of each county, who should be a doctor in good standing, and who also should be made the Health Officer of the county, and there will be no difficulty in carrying out its provisions. The business men as well as the medical men of the State ask this. They know the necessity for the act, and they, too, endorse what the *Banner* says so well in advocacy of it."

"A STEP BACKWARD."

[Nashville American, February 25, 1883.]

"The passage by the Senate, on Monday last, of a bill to repeal the law providing for the registration of births, marriages and deaths in Tennessee, was unquestionably a great mistake, and must, unless killed in the House, prove in the future history of our State a prominent factor in retarding that social development and organization which the information to be derived from such vital statistics can alone afford. Lord Bacon stated tersely a truth when he said, 'the true greatness of a State consisteth essentially in the population and breed of men,' and how the one is to be augmented in numbers and yet maintained in the highest degree of physical and mental health and the other to be improved in quality, a moment's reflection must show, can alone be accomplished by first having accurate vital statistics. This department of statesmanship has always justly received large attention, and as a result to-day we find no civilized country in Europe is without its system of registration, as also have a large number of the States of the Union, and thus, instead of undervaluing the proper registration of every birth, death and marriage occurring within their respective boundaries, they have striven to make vital statistics the starting point for all statistics as to material conditions, and have largely increased the facilities for their securement. Tennessee cannot afford to do less. If, therefore, the present law be defective in any of its practical details, let it carefully be perfected, for objectionable as it may be, it by far is preferable in a high degree to no law at all upon that subject.

"VITAL STATISTICS."

[Nashville World, February 28, 1883.]

"The idea of life insurance is of modern conception, and as a business proposition has grown in our day to such magnitude as to be only rivaled by the railroad interests in the amount of capital invested. The State Insurance Commissioner in his last published report shows that the people of Tennessee for the year 1881 carried life insurance to the extent in round numbers of \$13,000,000, and paid out in actual money during the same time about \$300,000 in premiums, while for the country at large, taking an average of the

past twenty years, we find the enormous sum of nearly \$100,000,000 has been paid upon similar risks per annum, thus showing it to be one of the largest and most important branches of mercantile interests of the whole country. What is the basis upon which this enormous investment of money is made? We answer, it is dependent wholly upon the calculation of probabilities and of expectations of life which have had their origin and development through vital statistics, or in a word, an accurate registration of births, deaths and marriages. These expectations of life or probabilities have, up to a recent time, been deductions made from the "Carlisle tables," which were compiled from English statistics about one hundred years ago. Now, it is conceded by all well informed actuaries that the insurance rate of one period is inapplicable to that of another. Yet, from want of statistics showing our own life line, temperament, social conditions and climate, our people are thus compelled to pay a rate of premiums, for life insurance, probably from twenty-five to thirty-five per cent. higher than the facts would justify if the vital statistics of Tennessee were available. When the facts are recalled of the comparatively recent and excellent origin of our people, being composed as they are of the bone and sinew of Europe and of the East, the cheapness and abundance of good food, the marked salubrity of our climate, all prime factors as life elements, we feel assured in affirming earnestly that if Tennessee had a perfected system of vital statistics the average of human life would be found much greater than in England or the Eastern States, and as a consequence the now heavy tax in the way of unjustly large premiums on life insurance would be materially reduced, resulting no doubt in the near future in a saving of not less than a half million or more dollars to our people annually.

"As this subject is now before the Legislature, the query arises shall we go forward and perfect a system by which the vital statistics of the State can be obtained and thereby avail ourselves of the improvements made in the methods of studying and tabulating such records, the necessity of such tables for study of the laws of population and life insurance, the results attained from the systems already adopted in many countries, the greater knowledge of the course and causes of diseases, the ability which has been shown to limit epidemics, to prolong life, to prevent outbreaks of contagion and even abate crime, which the study of vital statistics has undeniably attested to be a few of the practical benefits attainable, or shall the first step taken by Tennessee two years ago in this matter, when the Legislature enacted a law 'to provide for the registration of births, marriages and deaths in Tennessee,' be retraced and this statute wiped out, and all these vital and growing interests be stultified by remanding them back to oblivion and chaos. In behalf of our rep-

utation as a live, progressive State we would sincerely hope not the latter."

"A PLEA FOR THE VITAL STATISTICS LAW."

[Chattanooga Times, March 10, 1883.]

"The following note to Dr. P. D. Sims, of our City Board of Health, explains itself:

HEALTH DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK, BUREAU OF
VITAL STATISTICS, NEW YORK, Feb. 1, 1883.

"Dr. P. D. Sims, Secretary Board of Health, Chattanooga, Tenn.:

"SIR—I have the honor to submit the following vital statistics of New York City, for the year ending December 31, 1882, and would be thankful to obtain similar information relating to your city on the accompanying blank.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN T. NAGLE, M.D.,

Deputy Register of Records.

Population estimated July 1, 1882	1,279,560
Total Births reported*	27,321
Total Marriages reported*	11,085
Total Still-births reported*	2,658
Total Deaths	37,924
Total Deaths of Children under five years	17,520

Deaths were from the following causes:

Small-pox	259
Measles	913
Scarlet Fever	2,066
Diphtheria	1,525
Croup	729
Whooping Cough	658
Typhus Fever	65
Typhoid Fever	362
Cerebro-spinal Fever	238
Phthisis Pulmonalis	5,251
Pneumonia	3,472
Bronchitis	1,583
Diarrheal Diseases†	4,050
Diarrheal Diseases of Children under five years	3,479

"The above is a condensed vital statistic report of the city of New York, for the year 1882, showing a death rate of twenty-nine and a

*Incomplete.

†Include Cholera Infantum, Diarrhea, Cholera Morbus, Dysentery, Enterocolitis, Diarrheal Enteritis, and Gastro Enteritis.

fraction per thousand per annum, exclusive of small-pox. The death rate of Chattanooga for the same year, exclusive of small-pox, is twenty and a fraction per thousand, for the entire population. For the white population, which is the proper standard of comparison, the rate is fifteen and a fraction per thousand, fifty-one per cent. of the death rate of the city of New York—practically, one-half. There is not a town, city, or community in the State of Tennessee whose death rate year after year is not far less than that of New York City.

"And yet all life insurance in Tennessee, amounting now to hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, pays a much higher rate than is paid for the same risk in the city of New York, upon the sole ground that life is more uncertain in Tennessee than it is in New York.

"Population and capital are kept away from Tennessee because life here is considered less secure. And why so considered? For the simple and single reason that the world does not know us: that we are hermetically sealed: that we absolutely refuse to furnish to the world or even to ourselves any authentic information in reference to health, sanitary condition, inherent growth or mortality—anything pertaining to vital statistics.

"Two years ago our State Legislature enacted a vital statistics law—imperfect perhaps, and unsatisfactory in some respects, but a dead letter on the statute book, not because of imperfections probably, so much as because of a stupid lethargy or general indisposition to execute it through a want of proper education and enlightenment.

"Now comes another Legislature given to retrenchment and reform, and goes to work to amend, correct, vivify and utilize this important start in civilized and enlightened legislation? No, verily! On the contrary, it is proposed at one sweep to wipe away the law from the statute book—to go back again at one single stride into the impenetrable darkness of heathenish communities and populations. While we claim to be too poor to pay our debts or even the interest thereon, we shut out the lights of an enlightened civilization, and stubbornly close our doors to the avenues of health, wealth and intelligence.

"This is retrenchment; this is the gathering together that scattereth abroad. It is the penny wise and pound foolish—a watching at the spigot and wasting at the bung."

"VITAL STATISTICS."

[The Union City Anchor, March 2, 1883.]

"It is known to the most advanced in medical and sanitary science that largely more disease and human suffering can be prevented

than can be cured by the art or science of medicine. It is the hope of every enlightened philanthropist that the present General Assembly will not ignore the importance of this subject, but will, in the interest of our State's material wealth, the physical welfare, the intellectual and moral development of the present and future generations, permit the law enacted two years ago requiring the registration of births, deaths and marriages in Tennessee to remain undisturbed for two years longer, anyway, for as it is, if it accomplishes nothing else it educates our people in the importance of having registered the three epochs of life—birth, death and marriage."

Many other extracts of similar import could be added if it were thought necessary.

Tennessee, however, cannot, in this noonday of progress, afford longer to be without some such law upon her statute books; therefore, with the valuable lessons taught and experiences had in dealing with the law passed in 1881 before us, we are enabled, as a consequence, now to present the draft of a bill which, while it corrects the defects and deficiencies complained of, also retains all the essential features of the former act; and it is sincerely hoped it may commend itself sufficiently to the intelligence of the Legislature, about convening, to secure its enactment into a law at once. The draft suggested is as follows:

AN ACT to provide for the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths in Tennessee.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee*, That every justice of the peace, minister of the gospel, and all other legally authorized persons solemnizing marriage in this State, shall make a record of each marriage so solemnized by him, together with all the facts relating to the same, as required by the fifth section of this act; and such justice, minister of the gospel, or other person, shall, at the time such marriage is solemnized, deliver, on demand, to either of the parties so joined in marriage as aforesaid, a certificate of such marriage, containing all the facts in relation thereto required by said fifth section of this act; and shall, within thirty (30) days

thereafter, deliver to the Clerk of the County Court of that county in which such marriage took place, a certified copy of such record; and for such service shall receive ten (10) cents for each marriage so returned by him, to be paid by the county in which such returns are made, upon the presentation of the said clerk's certificate that the said returns are as required by this act.

SEC. 2. That every physician, surgeon, or midwife, who may be in professional attendance at any birth or death in this State, or in the absence of any or all of the aforesaid parties, the head or senior member of said household wherein said birth or death occurred, shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, file a written statement, duly certified to, of the fact, together with such other facts pertaining thereto as required in section five of this act, with the senior (by age) justice of the peace of the civil district in which said birth or death occurred; and for such service shall receive ten (10) cents for each birth or death so returned by him or her, to be paid by the county in which such returns are made, upon the presentation of the certificate of the said justice of the peace that the said returns are as required by this act.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the aforesaid justice of the peace in each civil district in the State, on receiving the returns of such births or deaths, to record the same in a book, to be furnished by the county, properly ruled, in the order in which they are received by said justice, and once within each and every thirty days make and deliver to the County Court Clerk of the county in which such district is located, a certified copy of such record, and for such service shall receive ten (10) cents for the record of each birth and death so returned by him, to be paid by the county in which such returns are made, upon the presentation of the certificate of the said County Court Clerk that the said returns are in due form as is required by the fifth section of this act.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of every coroner of this State to keep in a bound book, properly ruled, and to be furnished upon application by the several counties of the State, a record of every inquest held in his district, and within thirty days after the holding of such inquest, he shall deliver to the County Court Clerk of the county wherein said coroner has jurisdiction, a certified copy of such record, giving all the facts as required in section five of the act for other deaths, and for such service shall receive ten (10) cents for the record of each inquest so returned by him, to be paid by the county in which such inquest is made, upon the presentation of the certificate of said County Court Clerk that the said returns are in due form as is required by this act.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the County Court Clerks of the several counties in this State, on receiving the returns of such births, marriages and deaths, to record the same at length in separate books (well bound), to be provided for that purpose by the county, with proper indexes thereto. The births, marriages and deaths shall be numbered and recorded in the order in which they are received by the said clerk, and the record of marriages shall be indexed, using both the name of the bridegroom and bride. The record of births shall state in separate columns the date of the birth, the name of the child (if it has any), the sex and color of the child, the place of birth, the christian and surname of both parents, the residence and nativity, and kinship, if any, of the parents, the occupation of the father, and the date when the record was made: *Provided*, that in case the child had no christian name, such name shall be obtained and reported by the head of the household wherein such birth occurred, within thirty days after his or her attention has been called to the fact by the senior (by age) justice of the peace, who shall do so at once upon discovering the omission, and such christian name shall be distinctly designated in such report as the christian name

belonging to a child previously reported, and shall be properly entered by said justice in the blank left for such christian name in his book of record. The record of marriages shall state in separate columns the date and place of marriage, the christian and surname of the bridegroom and bride, if a widow, the color, age and place of birth of each, the residence of each at the time of marriage, the occupation of the bridegroom, and the name and official station of the person by or before whom they were married, the name and residence of at least two witnesses present at such marriage, and the date when such record was made. The record of death shall state, in separate columns, the date of the death, the christian and surname of the deceased, the sex and color, whether married or single, the age in years, months and days, the place of death, the disease or apparent cause of death, the nativity of the deceased, and the occupation, if any, and the names and residence of the parents, and their relationship, if any, and the date when such record was made. The Clerks of the County Court of the several counties shall annually, on or before the first day of April, make and transmit to the Secretary of State a certified copy of the records in his office of all the births, marriages and deaths reported in their respective counties for the year ending December 31st last preceeding, and each County Court Clerk shall receive for the record of each birth, marriage and death in his office three cents, and three cents for each birth, marriage and death returned by him to the Secretary of State, to be paid by the county upon the presentation of a certificate from the Secretary of State that the duties herein imposed upon said County Court Clerk have been performed, and shall be compensation in full for all the services required by this act to be performed by him.

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to receive the returns made in pursuance of the fifth section of this act, and he shall cause the same for each year to be

bound together in one or more volumes, at the expense of the State, and make indexes thereto, and with the assistance of the Secretary of the State Board of Health, who is hereby constituted *ex officio* "the Superintendent of Vital Statistics," shall prepare such tabular statements, results, and deductions therefrom as will render them of practical utility, and make report thereof biennially to the Governor of the State, which report shall be published and distributed as other public documents of the State now are.

SEC. 7. Nothing contained in this act shall be so construed as interfering with the manner adopted by any municipality in this State for collecting such vital statistics; and it is hereby made the duty of such municipal authorities to cause to be made once in every thirty days a transcript of such municipal record, which, after being duly certified to, they shall cause the same to be delivered to the clerk of the County Court in which county said municipality is located.

SEC. 8. In case of the refusal or neglect by any of the officers or individuals mentioned in this act to perform any of the duties hereinbefore required of them, or either of them, to be done and performed by any of the provisions herein contained, such officer or person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than five dollars nor more than fifty dollars, and the prosecuting attorney in each county or judicial district is hereby required to prosecute, in the name of the people of the State of Tennessee, all persons in his county or judicial district who shall be guilty of a violation of this act.

SEC. 9. That all acts or parts of acts coming in conflict with this act, are hereby repealed, and that this act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

TABLES.

From the returns which are on file in the office of the Secretary of State, the following tables have been prepared,

giving an abstract of the registration of births, marriages and deaths in Tennessee, thus showing, to some degree, the manner, as well as extent, to which this duty was performed through the twenty months of the law's existence—from the date of its going into effect up to January 1, 1883. The statistics thus presented, at a glance will appear, as they are, incomplete and otherwise imperfect and fragmentary; yet they contain much that is valuable, and, in their negative aspect, suggest a train of most profitable reflection to our law-makers, and to all well-wishers of our commonwealth. They suggest, and would have supplied, a basis, if the system could have been left undisturbed, upon which to have builded for the future, by amendment to the law from time to time, as experience indicated defects, or improvements were carefully thought out, and thus, gradually, a system of vital statistics for Tennessee would have been established, and could have been brought to perfection, as time will demonstrate it can in no other manner be done.

This, in brief, is the history, after an existence as an independent sovereignty for near one hundred years, of Tennessee's first and only effort, as a State, to collect and preserve her vital statistics.

In closing this report, your committee desire to express the hope that its next effort will be more successful, and when once begun, it will be continuous.

AN ABSTRACT of the Registration of Births in Tennessee, as appears from returns filed in the office of the Secretary of State, covering the period of twenty months, during which the law operated, from May 1, 1881, to January 1, 1883, when it was soon afterwards repealed.

UNITED STATES CENSUS, 1880.				BIRTHS.									
The State and Counties.	Total Population.	White Population.	Colored Population.	Whole Number.	SEX.			PARENTAGE.					
					Male.	Female.	Unknown.	American.	Foreign.	Am. Father and For. Mother.	For. Father and Am. Mother.	Unknown.	Unknown.
Tennessee.	1,542,359	1,138,831	403,528										
Anderson.	10,820	9,917	903	72	41	31							
Bedford ...	26,025	18,536	7,489	197	104	93		196					1
Benton ...	9,780	9,147	633	40	19	21		40					
aBledsoe ...	5,617	4,838	779										
Blount	15,985	14,273	1,712	355	165	190		354	1				
aBradley ...	12,124	10,258	1,866										
Campbell ..	10,005	9,571	434	174	81	93							
Cannon ...	11,859	10,696	1,163	120	55	65							
aCarter ...	10,019	9,385	634										
aCarroll ...	22,103	16,524	5,579										
aCheath'm ..	7,566	6,295	1,661										
aClaiborne ..	13,373	12,584	789										
aClay	6,987	6,588	399										
aCocke	14,808	13,361	1,447										
aCoffee	12,894	11,164	1,730	75	39	35	1						
aCrockett ...	14,109	10,493	3,616										
Cumberland	4,638	4,496	142	67	29	38							
Davison ...	79,026	47,678	31,348	801	423	372	6	592	70	6	20	104	
Decatur ...	8,498	7,276	1,222	186	90	96							
DeKalb ...	14,813	13,660	1,153	239	137	102							
Dickson ...	12,460	10,229	2,231	41	21	20							
aDyer	15,118	11,206	3,912										
Fayette ...	31,871	9,633	22,238	174	89	85							
Fentress ..	5,941	5,838	103	57	30	25	2						
aFranklin ...	17,178	13,646	3,532										
Gibson ...	32,685	23,540	9,145	176	79	97		166	2				8
aGiles	36,014	21,824	14,190										
aGrainger ...	12,384	11,555	829										
Greene ...	24,005	21,850	2,155	82	36	45	1						
Grundy ...	4,592	4,154	438	11	11								2
Hamilton ...	10,187	8,481	1,706	50	25	25							
Hamilton ...	23,642	16,239	7,403	109	57	50	2	108	1				
Hancock ...	9,098	8,616	482	102	45	56	1						
Hardeman ...	22,921	13,313	9,608	130	62	64	4						
Hardin ...	14,793	12,775	2,018	310	160	150							
aHawkins ...	20,610	17,956	2,654										
aHaywood ...	26,053	8,497	17,556										
Henderson ...	17,430	14,414	3,016	394	196	187	1	358	20				6
Henry ...	22,142	15,488	6,654	147	84	63							
Hickman ...	12,095	9,849	2,246	179	92	80	7						
Houston ...	4,295	3,487	808	51	24	27							
aHumph's ...	11,379	9,708	1,671										
Jackson ...	12,008	11,575	433	348	182	163	3						
aJames ...	5,187	4,478	709										
Jefferson ...	15,846	13,339	2,507	9	5	4							
Johnson ...	7,766	7,295	471	177	90	87							
Knox ...	39,124	31,880	7,244	303	172	129	2	276	14	1	12		
aLake ...	3,968	3,274	694										
Laud'ale ...	14,918	9,081	5,837	70	36	34		52	12				6
Lawrence ...	10,383	9,599	784	11	6	5							
Lewis ...	2,181	1,963	218	57	25	32		53	2	2			

a No report.

ABSTRACT OF BIRTHS—Continued.

UNITED STATES CENSUS, 1890.				BIRTHS.									
The State and Counties.	Total Population.	White Population.	Colored Population.	Whole Number.	SEX.			PARENTAGE.					
					Male.	Female.	Unknown.	American.	Foreign.	Am. Father and Mother.	For. Father and Mother.	Am. Father and Mother.	Unknown.
Lincoln ...	26,960	20,648	6,317	396	220	176	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
a Loudon ...	9,148	7,382	1,766	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
a McMinn ...	15,064	12,718	2,346	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
McNairy ...	17,271	14,845	2,426	...	9	4	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Macon ...	9,321	8,429	892	...	56	27	29	...	...	...	...	...	...
a Madison ...	30,874	15,406	15,468	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
a Marion ...	10,910	9,541	1,369	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
a Marshall ...	19,259	14,429	4,830	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
a Maury ...	39,904	21,731	18,173	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
a Meigs ...	7,117	6,303	814	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Monroe ...	15,283	12,991	1,292	17	8	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mong'm'y ...	28,481	14,786	13,695	68	32	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Moore ...	6,233	5,448	785	80	31	46	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Morgan ...	5,156	4,867	289	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Obion ...	22,912	18,841	4,071	17	10	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Overton ...	12,153	11,811	342	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Perry ...	7,174	6,609	565	89	51	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pickett† ...	...	...	...	96	52	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polk ...	7,269	6,893	376	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Putnam ...	11,501	10,903	598	212	105	107	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
a Rhea ...	7,073	6,300	773	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
a Roane ...	15,237	13,310	1,927	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
a Roberts'n ...	18,861	13,242	5,619	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rutherford ...	36,741	20,248	16,493	605	328	275	2	542	38	9	16	...	...
a Scott ...	6,021	5,864	157	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sequatchie ...	2,565	2,309	256	18	11	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sevier ...	15,541	14,848	693	133	56	77	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shelby ...	78,430	34,508	43,922	225	117	108	...	191	23	5	6	...	...
a Smith ...	17,799	14,215	3,584	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Stewart ...	12,690	9,933	2,757	184	97	87	...	181	3	...	...	...	...
Sullivan ...	18,321	17,011	1,310	225	108	114	3	221	2	...	...	2	...
Sumner ...	23,825	16,294	7,531	93	50	43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
a Tipton ...	21,033	10,482	10,551	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
a Trousdale ...	6,646	4,505	2,141	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
a Unicoi ...	3,645	3,526	119	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Union ...	10,260	10,042	218	82	46	34	2	81	...	...	...	1	...
a V. Buren ...	2,933	2,747	186	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Warren ...	14,079	11,801	2,278	16	6	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
a Wash'ton ...	16,181	14,004	1,577	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wayne ...	11,301	10,232	1,069	221	126	95	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Weakley ...	24,338	20,125	4,413	14	8	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
White ...	11,176	10,173	1,003	145	76	69	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Willi'm's'n ...	28,313	15,922	12,391	139	82	51	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wilson ...	28,747	20,292	8,455	54	28	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

a No Report. † County formed since census of 1890 was taken.

AN ABSTRACT of the Registration of Marriages, as appears from the returns filed in the office of the Secretary of State, covering the period of twenty months, during which the law operated, from May 1, 1880, to January 1, 1883, when it was soon afterwards repealed.

UNITED STATES CENSUS, 1880.				MARRIAGES.								
The State and Counties.	Total Population.	White Population.	Colored Population.	Couples.	NATIVITY.						Color.	
					American.	Foreign.	Am'n Male and For. Female	For'gn Male and Am. Female	Unknown.	White.	Colored.	
Tennessee.....	1,542,359	1,138,831	403,528									
Anderson.....	10,820	9,917	903	59	58					1	51	8
Bedford.....	26,025	18,536	7,489	155	155						117	38
Benton.....	9,780	9,147	633	71	71						68	3
Bledsoe.....	5,617	4,838	779									
Blount.....	15,985	14,273	1,712	210	210						189	21
Bradley.....	12,124	10,258	1,866									
Campbell.....	10,005	9,571	434	256	256						244	12
Cannon.....	11,859	10,686	1,163	90				82	8			
Carter.....	10,619	9,385	634	72	72						59	13
Carroll.....	22,703	16,524	5,579									
Cheatham.....	7,956	6,295	1,661									
Clairborne.....	13,373	12,584	789									
Clay.....	6,987	6,588	399									
Cooke.....	14,808	13,361	1,447									
Cohee.....	12,894	11,164	1,730	175	175						157	18
Crockett.....	14,109	10,493	3,616									
Cumberland.....	4,533	4,496	42	90	90							
Davidson.....	79,026	47,678	31,348	192	192							
Decatur.....	8,498	7,276	1,222	132	132						99	33
DeKalb.....	14,813	13,660	1,153	100	100						91	9
Dickson.....	12,460	10,229	2,231	55	55						49	6
Dyer.....	15,118	11,206	3,912	29								
Fayette.....	31,871	9,633	22,238	307	296	1			10	189	118	2
Fentress.....	5,941	5,898	43	48	48					46	2	
Franklin.....	17,178	13,646	3,532									
Gibson.....	32,685	23,540	9,145	188	187	1				138	50	
Giles.....	36,014	21,824	14,190	285	285					187	98	
Grainger.....	12,384	11,555	829									
Greene.....	24,005	21,850	2,155	130	130					118	12	
Grundy.....	4,592	4,154	438	30	29	1				28	2	
Hamblen.....	10,187	8,481	1,706	163	161	2				139	24	
Hamilton.....	23,642	16,239	7,403	214	203	10			1	148	66	
Hancock.....	9,008	8,616	482	56	56					55	1	
Hardeman.....	22,921	13,313	9,608	221	217	4				124	97	
Hardin.....	14,793	12,775	2,018	176	176					154	22	
Hawkins.....	20,610	17,956	2,654	306	306					263	43	
Haywood.....	26,053	8,497	17,556									
Henderson.....	17,430	14,414	3,016	275	275					243	32	
Henry.....	22,142	15,488	6,654	294	294					219	75	
Hickman.....	12,095	9,849	2,246	180	180					148	32	
Houston.....	4,295	3,487	808	14	4				10	9	5	
Humphreys.....	11,379	9,708	1,671									
Jackson.....	12,005	11,575	433	197	197					187	10	
James.....	5,187	4,478	709									
Jefferson.....	15,846	13,339	2,507	48	48					39	9	
Johnson.....	7,766	7,295	471	211	211					147	64	
Knox.....	39,124	31,880	7,244	831	817	7		7		686	145	
Lake.....	3,968	3,274	694									
Lauderdale.....	14,918	9,081	5,837	283	263				20	192	91	2
Lawrence.....	10,383	9,599	784	21	21					19	2	
Lewis.....	2,181	1,963	218	49	49					44	5	
Lincoln.....	26,960	20,643	6,317	436	432	2	2			338	98	

α No report.

ABSTRACT OF MARRIAGES—Continued.

UNITED STATES CENSUS, 1880.				MARRIAGES.							
The State and Counties.	Total Population.	White Population.	Colored Population.	NATIVITY.							
				Couples.	American.	Foreign.	Am'n Male and For. Female.	For'n Male and Am. Female.	Unknown.	Color.	
										White.	Colored.
a Loudon.....	9,148	7,382	1,766	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
a McMinn.....	15,064	12,718	2,346	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
a McNairy.....	17,271	14,345	2,426	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
a Macon.....	9,321	8,429	892	69	68	1	.....	.....	.....	66	3
a Madison.....	30,874	15,406	15,468	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
a Marion.....	10,910	9,541	1,369	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
a Marshall.....	19,259	14,429	4,830	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
a Maury.....	39,904	21,731	18,173	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
a Meigs.....	7,117	6,303	814	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Montroe.....	15,283	12,991	1,292	132	134	.....	.....	.....	.....	126	6
Montgomery.....	28,481	14,786	13,695	455	453	.....	.....	.....	2	235	190
a Moore.....	6,233	5,448	785	102	102	.....	.....	.....	.....	89	13
a Morgan.....	5,156	4,867	289	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Obion.....	22,912	18,841	4,071	185	184	1	.....	.....	.....	158	27
Overton.....	12,153	11,811	342	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Perry.....	7,174	6,609	565	126	126	.....	.....	.....	.....	112	14
† Pickett.....	.....	.....	.....	111	111	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
a Polk.....	7,269	6,893	376	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Putnam.....	11,501	10,903	598	156	153	.....	.....	.....	3	150	6
a Rhea.....	7,073	6,300	773	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
a Roane.....	15,237	13,310	1,927	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
a Robertson.....	18,861	13,242	5,619	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rutherford.....	36,741	20,248	16,493	560	560	.....	.....	.....	.....	351	209
a Scott.....	6,021	5,864	157	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sequatchie.....	2,565	2,509	56	28	28	.....	.....	.....	.....	28	.....
Sevier.....	15,541	14,848	693	72	72	.....	.....	.....	.....	72	.....
Shelby.....	78,430	34,508	43,922	1426	1372	19	11	24	.....	996	430
a Smith.....	17,799	14,215	3,584	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Stewart.....	12,690	9,933	2,757	255	249	2	1	3	.....	202	53
Sullivan.....	18,321	17,011	1,310	349	378	.....	.....	1	.....	349	30
Sumner.....	23,625	16,294	7,331	601	599	2	.....	.....	.....	449	152
a Tipton.....	21,033	10,482	10,551	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
a Trousdale.....	6,646	4,505	2,141	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
a Unicoi.....	3,645	3,526	119	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Union.....	10,260	10,042	218	40	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	38	2
a Van Buren.....	2,983	2,747	186	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Warren.....	14,079	11,801	2,278	62	62	.....	.....	.....	.....	53	9
a Washington.....	16,181	14,604	1,577	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wayne.....	11,301	10,232	1,069	134	134	.....	.....	.....	.....	126	8
Weakley.....	24,538	20,125	4,413	129	128	1	.....	.....	.....	103	26
White.....	11,176	10,173	1,003	107	107	.....	.....	.....	.....	98	9
Williamson.....	28,313	15,922	12,391	304	303	1	.....	.....	.....	178	126
Wilson.....	28,747	20,292	8,455	247	247	.....	.....	.....	.....	168	79

a No report. † County formed since census of 1880 was taken.†

AN ABSTRACT of the Registration of Deaths in Tennessee, as appears from the records filed in the office of the Secretary of State, covering the period of twenty months, during which the law operated, from May 1, 1881, to Jan. 1, 1883, when it was soon afterwards repealed.

UNITED STATES CENSUS, 1880.				DEATHS.													
The State and Counties.	Total Population.	White Population.	Colored Population.	Whole Number.		SEX.						AGE.		Aggregate.	Average.		
						SEX.											
				White.	Colored.	Male.	Female.	Unknown.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.					
Tennessee	1,542,359	1,138,831	403,528														
Anderson .	10,820	9,917	903	20	20	9	11	9	11	600	30						
Bedford	26,025	18,536	7,489	75	56	19	41	34	30	26	10	9	1836	24½			
Benton	9,780	9,137	633	17	17	8	9	8	9	396	23½						
αBledsoe	5,617	4,838	779														
Blount	15,985	14,273	1,712	95	87	7	47	47	42	45	5	3	2976	31½			
αBradley	12,124	10,258	1,866														
Campbell	10,005	9,571	434	16	16	4	12	4	12	224	14						
Cannon	11,859	10,696	1,163	31	28	3	19	12	18	10	1	2	932	30			
αCarter	10,019	9,385	634														
αCarroll	22,103	16,524	5,579														
αCheath'm	7,956	6,295	1,661														
αClaiborne	13,373	12,584	789														
αClay	6,987	6,588	399														
αCooke	14,808	13,361	1,447														
Coffee	12,894	11,164	1,730	25	24	1	10	15	9	15	1		606	24½			
αCrockett	14,109	10,493	3,016														
Cumberl'd	4,538	4,496	42	18	18	8	10	8	10	434	32						
Davidson	79,026	47,678	31,348	1057	553	504	530	527	283	266	244	264	24268	23			
Decatur ...	8,498	7,276	1,222	48	42	6	24	24	21	22	3	2	720	15			
DeKalb	14,813	13,660	1,153	113	106	7	58	55	55	51	3	4	1497	13½			
Dickson	12,460	10,229	2,231	20	16	4	12	8	8	8	4		540	27			
αDyer	15,118	11,206	3,912														
Fayette	31,871	9,633	22,238	123	66	57	70	53	41	28	27	27	2521	20½			
Fentress ...	5,941	5,838	103	21	21	13	8	8	13	8			494	23½			
αFranklin	17,178	13,646	3,532														
Gibson	32,685	23,540	9,145	96	62	34	40	56	28	34	15	19	2134	22 1-5			
αGiles	36,014	21,824	14,190														
αGrainger	12,384	11,555	829														
Greene	24,005	21,850	2,155	41	40	1	22	19	21	19	1		1210	29½			
Grundy	4,592	4,154	438	2	2		1	1	1	1			44	22			
Hamblen	10,187	8,481	1,706	24	22	2	11	13	10	12	1	1	721	30½			
Hamilton	23,642	16,239	7,403	47	43	4	22	23	20	21	2	4	987	21			
αHancock	9,098	8,516	482														
Hardeman	22,921	13,313	9,608	93	72	21	47	44	2	36	34	10	13	2230	24		
Hardin	14,793	12,775	2,018	134	100	34	60	74	46	54	13	21	2723	20½			
αHawkins	20,610	17,956	2,654														
αHaywood	26,053	8,497	17,556														
Henderson	17,430	14,414	3,016	69	59	10	34	35	34	23		12	1217	17½			
Henry	22,142	15,488	6,654	54	42	12	20	32	2	17	24	5	8	1154	21½		
Hickman	12,095	9,849	2,246	87	72	15	41	45	1	32	39	8	8	1987	13½		
αHouston	4,295	3,487	808														
αHumph's	11,379	9,708	1,671														
Jackson	12,008	11,575	433	117	115	2	69	48	54	61	1	1	1755	15			
αJames	5,187	4,478	709														
αJefferson	15,846	13,339	2,507														
Johnson	7,766	7,295	471	43	40	3	19	24	17	22	2	2	746	17½			
Knox	39,124	31,880	7,244	189	112	77	98	91	55	57	43	34	4063	21½			
αLake	3,968	3,274	694														
Lauderdl'e	14,918	9,081	5,837	45	33	12	22	23	18	14	6	7	574	12½			
Lawrence	10,383	9,599	784	8	8		6	1	1	6	1		66	8½			
Lewis	2,181	1,963	218	17	16	1	4	13	3	13	1		612	36			
Lincoln	26,960	20,643	6,317	152	123	29	69	83	53	71	16	12	3797	11½			
αLoudon	9,148	7,382	1,766														
αMcMinn	15,064	12,718	2,346														

α No report.

ABSTRACT OF DEATHS—Continued.

UNITED STATES CENSUS, 1880.				DEATHS.											
The State and Counties	Total Population.	White Population.	Colored Population.	Whole Number.)	SEX.								AGE.		
					White.	Colored.	Male.	Female.	Unknown.	White.		Colored.		Aggregate.	Average.
										Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.		
McNairy ..	17,271	14,845	2,426	10	7	3	7	3	...	5	2	1	110	11	
aMacon	9,321	8,429	892	20	19	1	10	10	...	9	10	1	628	31½	
aMadison ..	30,874	15,406	15,468	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
aMarion ...	10,910	9,541	1,369	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
aMarshall..	19,259	14,429	4,830	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
aMaury	39,904	21,731	18,173	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
aMeigs	1,117	6,303	814	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
aMonroe ...	15,283	12,991	1,292	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Montg'm'y	28,481	14,786	13,695	73	33	40	41	32	...	21	13	20	19	1551	
Moore	6,233	5,448	785	29	29	...	10	18	1	10	18	.....	.....	662
aMorgan ...	5,156	4,867	289	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
aObion	22,912	18,841	4,071	14	12	2	8	6	...	7	5	1	1	112	
aOverton ..	12,153	11,811	342	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Perry	7,174	6,609	565	24	23	1	12	12	...	11	12	1	.....	370
†Pickett ...	.....	.....	.....	16	16	.....	9	7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	253
aPolk	7,269	6,893	376	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Putnam ...	11,501	10,903	598	39	39	.....	16	23	...	16	23	.....	.....	953
aRhea	7,073	6,300	773	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
aRoane	15,237	13,310	1,927	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
aRobertson	18,861	13,242	5,619	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rutherford	36,741	20,248	16,493	371	198	173	177	191	3	99	96	83	90	8512	
aScott	6,021	5,864	157	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sequatchie	2,565	2,509	56	11	11	.....	9	2	...	9	2	.....	.....	237
Sevier	15,541	14,848	693	31	29	2	14	17	...	13	15	1	2	237	
Shelby	78,430	34,508	43,922	295	127	168	168	126	1	80	48	91	76	5225	
aSmith	17,799	14,215	3,584	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Stewart	12,690	9,933	2,757	67	54	13	36	31	...	29	25	7	6	1395	
Sullivan ..	18,321	17,011	1,310	94	94	.....	42	52	...	59	35	.....	.....	3521
Sumner	23,625	16,294	7,331	54	43	11	24	30	...	19	23	5	7	1935	
aTipton	21,033	10,482	10,551	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
aTrousdale	6,646	4,505	2,141	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
aUnicoi ...	3,645	3,526	119	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
aUnion	10,260	10,042	218	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
aVnBuren	2,933	2,747	188	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Warren	14,079	11,801	2,278	8	8	.....	3	5	...	3	5	.....	.....	239
aWash'g'n	16,181	14,604	1,577	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wayne	11,301	10,232	1,069	65	61	4	31	34	...	28	33	3	1	147	
aWeakley..	24,538	20,125	4,413	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
White	11,176	10,173	1,003	48	46	2	32	16	...	31	15	1	1	1104	
Williams'n	28,313	15,922	12,391	61	41	20	22	39	...	15	26	7	13	1464	
Wilson	28,747	20,292	8,455	15	10	5	5	10	...	3	7	2	3	288	

a No report. † County formed since census of 1880 was taken.



